



FROM YOUR SUPERVISOR — KATHY DENT



SARASOTA COUNTY SUPERVISOR OF ELECTIONS

Election Connection

Volume 14 Issue 1

April 2009



FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF STATE

CHARLIE CRIST
Governor

KURT S. BROWNING
Secretary of State

March 10, 2009

Sarasota County Elections Office
P.O. Box 4194
Sarasota, FL 34230

Dear Sarasota County Election Workers:

On behalf of the residents of the State of Florida, I say "Thank You." The 2008 Elections saw record turnouts, and because of your hard work, the voters of Sarasota County have a high level of confidence in their election process.

As an Election Worker, you were asked to deal with often-unpredictable situations that would be overwhelming to many people--you excelled. You were asked to work long hours with little rest--you did. You were asked to resolve problems and be the face of the election--you surpassed expectations. You were asked to make sure that each person who walked through the door was confident that his or her vote would count, and you succeeded with flying colors. No matter the task, you rose to the challenge and for that, you should be proud. I most certainly am.

The citizens of Sarasota County can honestly say that their election officials and workers are among the best in the state. I hope that you will continue your service to the people of Sarasota County and the State of Florida. Without citizens like you, our democracy cannot continue to thrive. Keep up the good work!

Sincerely,

Kurt S. Browning
Secretary of State

KSB/aw

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SUPERVISOR OF ELECTIONS
SARASOTA COUNTY FLORIDA

2009 - 2010 Elections

| Election | Election Day | Last day to Register |
|---|------------------|----------------------|
| <u>City of Sarasota Regular</u> | March 10, 2009 | February 9, 2009 |
| <u>Town of Longboat Key General</u> | March 17, 2009 | February 17, 2009 |
| <u>City of Sarasota Second Election</u> | April 14, 2009 | March 16, 2009 |
| <u>City of Venice</u> | November 3, 2009 | October 5, 2009 |
| <u>Primary Election</u> | August 24, 2010 | July 26, 2010 |
| <u>General Election</u> | November 2, 2010 | October 4, 2010 |

New Web Site Address!

Come visit our new home. Our new home page and Web site, that is! At www.sarasotavotes.com you can keep up to date with the latest in voter and poll worker information. Just use the tabs for links to election, voter and poll worker information. You are just a click away from the most up-to-date materials from the Supervisor of Elections Office.



Supervisor of Elections Office Goes Green

Think Green! Live Red, White & Blue!

We now post the Election Connection on our new Web site. After this issue, our poll workers and other contacts who have an e-mail address will receive notice that the new edition has been posted on the supervisor of elections Web site. Just click on "Stay Connected" under the "Poll Worker Information" tab to access the *Election Connection*. You can read it on your computer with the option of printing it out at home. This is a great way for our office to "Go Green" by saving paper and eliminating the cost of postage.

Those who do not have Internet capabilities can still receive the *Election Connection* via "snail mail". You can pick up a copy at one of our three offices or leave a message at 861-8648.

If you have an e-mail address on file at our office, you already know how we contact you with up to the minute information about elections. Those messages came from everhart@srqelections.com. With the advent of our new Web site you will now receive e-mail from pollworker@sarasotavotes.com. Please adjust your spam blocker to accept this new contact.

Please make sure that you do not have us blocked on your e-mail.

If you are not sure that we have your current e-mail address, send us a quick message to pollworker@sarasotavotes.com with your name attached and we will verify that it is the same address we have on file.



From the Office of Information Technology...



Online Training

Sarasota County Supervisor of Elections has joined the "On-line Generation"!

For the March 10 City of Sarasota Regular Election and the March 17 Town of Longboat Key General Election, clerks and assistant clerks had the opportunity to participate in the inaugural online training class. They also attended a "hands on" class to provide their feedback!

This innovative program requires less time in the training room and gives all poll workers the opportunity to review the training information online up to election day.

The online training program is expected to be utilized fully, for all positions, by 2010. When totally implemented, a login and password will be issued so that you can begin your training from your personal computer. Although the training is self explanatory and "walks you through" the content, the poll worker department will be available to answer any questions, either on-line through the e-mail link to Pam and Eileen or by phone during regular office hours. Traditional training will still be available for those who do not have Internet access or prefer to have classroom training.

The Supervisor of Elections office is very excited about this fresh move in updating our training.

SARASOTA COUNTY
SUPERVISOR OF ELECTIONS



101 South Washington Boulevard
Sarasota

4000 Tamiami Trail South
Venice

13640 Tamiami Trail
North Port

Your input really does matter!

Did you ever fill out the [Comment Card](#) at poll worker training and wonder if your input was read? Well, we do read all of your cards and note your requests and interests!

Quite a few poll workers have expressed interest in training as a new clerk or assistant clerk. We keep a record of your name and you will be contacted when an opening occurs. Due to this year being an "off year" for elections, we will resume training for these new positions in 2010.

Some of our precincts have voters who need English language assistance. If you marked your card indicating that you speak another language, you may be asked to help out in one of the precincts that have a need for your skill.

If you indicated that you are interested in becoming a trainer, interviews to join our training staff occur approximately every two years. We will begin those in late 2009. You will be called to interview if a position opens that could use your skills.

Suggestions on how to make training and election day a better experience are compiled and reviewed. As we prepare for upcoming elections, we will try to implement the best ideas that would help us to develop a more effective and pleasurable training process for poll workers and a better experience for voters on election day. Your ideas are always welcome. Unfortunately, due to time and budget constraints, even some of the best ideas cannot be implemented at this time. If you want to discuss your ideas, please call 861-8641 or e-mail pollworker@sarasotavotes.com



Our goal is to develop the finest election day staff and process in Florida!

With your help, together, we can achieve this goal!